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# PROVERBS AND SIMILES

OF THE

## BAMONGO.

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# PROVERBS, FABLES, SIMILES AND SAYINGS

OF THE

## BAMONGO.

*TRANSLATED AND EXPLAINED,*

Giving the *nearest* equivalent in English.

A. E. RUSKIN.

BONGANDANGA,

30617

*July, 1897.*

EAST LONDON INSTITUTE  
FOR HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.  
HARLEY HOUSE, BOW, LONDON.

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## “ Banoju nt’iak’ elo.”

*Analysis* — Banoju ..... Children (boys).  
nta ..... not.  
(l)iaka ..... knoweth  
elo ..... sorrow, suffering, etc., etc.

*Equivalent.*—The inexperienced cannot truly sympathise with sufferers, etc.

## “ Boloi yoko bo fo ten ’otai.”

*Anal.*—Boloi..... Company, crowd, etc.  
? yoko ..... either yoko or oko ??  
bo ..... it, or they.  
fo ..... not.  
tena ..... cut, divide.  
botai..... net(a)

*Equiv.*—Clannism, confederacy, cliquish, etc.

## “ Ba ki ’amato bau coa baende.”

*Anal.*—Ba ..... They.  
ki ..... were.  
bamato..... females (women).  
bau ..... they.  
coa ..... go to (become).  
baende ..... males (men.)

*Equiv.*—They who were weak have become strong.

A contemptuous saying of scoffers, who are angry because women and children are considered and helped by the missionaries.

# **“Bonoju a tanga bofaiya ok’ise nk’okwala.”**

*Anal.*—Bonoju ..... boy-child.  
a ..... he.  
bofaiya ..... stranger, visitor.  
oki ..... of, etc.  
ise ..... father.  
nko ..... only.  
bokwala ..... a slave.

A boy’s contempt for his father’s visitor, whom he considers to be equal to a slave.

# **“Ifulu nta fondaka ndajiko au fondaka ndasi.”**

*Anal.*—Ifulu ..... Bird (a):  
nta ..... not.  
fondaka ..... decay, putrefying, etc.  
ndajiko ..... above.  
au ..... it.  
fondaka ..... decay, putrefying, etc.  
ndasi ..... below.

*A Simile.*—He will come back to his home—to where he fares best, etc.

# **“Ifulu nta kilaka ikeli a t’ene elele.”**

*Anal.*—Ifulu ..... Bird (a).  
nta ..... not.  
kilaka ..... abstain from.  
ikeli ..... a small stream, or rivulet.  
a ..... it.  
tafo ..... not.  
(l)ena ..... see.  
elele ..... a hole in a hollow tree, containing water.

The bird will not leave the stream until it has found water in a more secluded spot.

*A Simile.*—A wise man who is in a hard and poor situation will not leave it unless he has found a better one.

# **“Bauta b'omende nta coaka l'osumo.”**

*Anal.*—Bauta ..... Fat.  
           ba ..... of.  
           bomende .... antelope (a species of).  
           nta ..... not.  
           coaka ..... go=goeth.  
           la ..... by.  
           bosumo .... praise, flattery.

*Equiv.*—The price of this article is more than flattery.  
 (Or) Flattery will not secure for us this coveted article.

# **“Lankesa o taf 'ena nköla.”**

*Anal.*—Lankesa . . . Early morning.  
           o ..... you.  
           tafo ..... not.  
           (l)ena ..... see  
           nköla ..... nails (finger).

*Equiv.*—Before sunrise. Before you have seen your finger nails.

# **“O cik 'elaka tofele.”**

Don't forget.

# **“Au tenya botema mö.”**

*Anal.*—Au ..... He.  
           tenya.. .... cuts, divides.  
           botema..... Stomach, seat of the affections.  
   inner man, etc.  
           mö ..... ! (an exclamation, an interjection  
   of surprise).

*Equiv.*—To part with a thing reluctantly.

# **“O kama nkele ngole ekucu lai?”**

*Anal.*—O ..... You.  
           kama ..... full, pressed, etc., etc.  
           nkele ..... anger, rage,  
           ngole ..... like  
           ekucu ..... calabash.

*A Simile.*—To be very angry, to be filled with anger or rage like a calabash filled with water.

# **“O n ambela wela.”**

To betray, backbite, etc.

# **“Bofala w’emi o sing’otai.”**

*Anal.*—Bofala ..... Antelope (an)  
           w’emi ..... it stands.  
           o ..... you.  
           singa ..... make.  
           botai ..... net (a),

*Equiv.*—Offered opportunity neglected. Missed opportunity, etc.

# **“To lénana ngoki wat ’efikere.”**

*Anal.*—To ..... We.  
           léna .. } part, separate.  
           „ ana .. } [reciprocal form].  
           ngoki ..... [which was] like.  
           watu ..... canoe (a).  
           efikere ..... a stump of a tree.

The canoe never again meets the stump of the tree from which it was cut—they part for ever.

*Equiv.*—Separation, part, never to meet again.

## “Bombölö bo fend 'auyi 'te.”

*Anal.*—Bombölö .... a small animal which lives in a tree.

bo ..... it.

fenda ..... cause to pass over.

bauyi ..... noise, cry, whine, etc.

bete ..... trees.

The small animal makes its cry or whine to pass over the trees, and can be heard a great way off during the dead of the night.

*Equiv.*—Great swelling words of brag are heard from the braggart or vain person. Small and unimportant, but plenty of noise.

Said to—a braggart.

## “Bombito nt'enaka dilenga dikai.”

*Anal.*—Bombito .... Snake (a certain species).

nta ..... not.

enaka ..... seeth.

dilenga ..... the white spot which is under its neck.

dikai ..... his.

The “bombito” cannot see the white spot which is under its own neck, but others can.

*Equiv.*—We see not ourselves as others see us. We see not our own badness, but other people do.

Said to—a self-righteous person.

# **“Nta limbaka o le nd 'etoko bokwa.”**

*Anal.*—Nta ..... not (neg.)  
 limbaka .... deceive (indefinite).  
 o ..... you.  
 le ..... are.  
 nda ..... at.  
 etoko ..... spring.  
 bokwa ..... salt.

The man who is making salt at the spring, and has promised to give you some, will not be able to deceive you ; for as he returns home he will have to pass your house.

*Equiv.*—“ Be sure your sin will find you out.” Be sure your deception will be discovered.

# **“Bokwa lokutu a tanelaka mpela.”**

*Anal.*—Bokwa ..... Salt.  
 lokutu ..... tardiness, slow, etc.  
 a ..... he.  
 tanelaka .... finds, sees.  
 mpela ..... wet season.

The salt can only be got when the river is low.

A procrastinator puts off cutting until the floods come and cover it. (W. J. S.)

# **“Ikeji nta tefilaka isungu nto kwela.”**

*Anal.*—Ikeji ..... a small stream.  
 nta ..... not.  
 tefilaka ..... moves, splash, etc.  
 isungu ..... stick.  
 nto ..... not.  
 kwela ..... fallen in.

*Equiv.*—There must be a cause.

**“O yo unde liko, o yo öfwa, nta  
kwake.”**

*Anal.*—

O	.....	who (he).
yo	.....	to.
unde	.....	climbs.
liko	.....	creeper.
o	.....	who.
yo	.....	to.
öfwa	.....	thinks, considers.
nta	.....	not.
kwake	.....	falls.

He who climbs a tree cautiously falls not.

*Equiv.*—“Look before you leap”.

**“Nkumbu eki fafa, o mpime  
mpau lela; bofambe nta  
tongaka ilombe nda din-  
gongo.”**

*Anal.*—

Nkumbu	....	Saying, etc.
eki	.....	of.
fafa	.....	father.
o	.....	you.
m	.....	me.
(p)ime	.....	denv, refuse to give.
mpau	.....	shall not.
lela	.....	cry.
bofambe	....	food.
nta	.....	not.
tongaka	....	builds.
ilombe	.....	house.
nda	.....	in.
dingongo	....	throat.

*Equiv.*—The day is coming when you may need food.

Said to—a selfish person who has refused to help one in need.

## “Nyama y’engongo ewelo emoko.”

*Anal.*—Nyama ..... Animals.  
           ya ..... of.  
           engongo .... ? (a species).  
           ewelo ..... either “ewelo” or “iwelo”?  
           emoko ..... one.

*Equiv.*—Death is no respecter of persons.

## “Nkema yo la besele.”

*Anal.*—Nkema ..... Monkeys.  
           yo... ..... = they-to.  
           la ..... eat.  
           besele ..... fruit (a certain kind).

Monkeys only eat “besele” when they are tired and weary (while the sun is hot).

*Equiv.*—Worn out, weary with work, tired, exhausted, etc.

## “Basi binol’ ofumbo.”

*Anal.*—Basi ..... Water.  
           binola ..... to cause to come up out of water,  
   raise.  
           bofumbo .... a fallen branch or tree, partly in  
   water.

The force of the current makes the fallen tree to move upwards, to rise and fall in the river.

*Simile of Confederacy.*

Said of a witness (in discussing a palaver) who speaks in favour of the accused (it being known that there is a mutual understanding between them).

# **“Mboka e fa wo coa wo ala jeva lai?”**

<i>Anal.</i> —Mboka .....	Road, path.
e .....	it.
fa .....	not.
we, o .....	you.
coa .....	to go.
we, o .....	you.
ala .....	to look in order to direct the mind or attention, to consider, be- hold.
jeva .....	Sun (the).
lai .....	why?

*Equiv.*—Pretension, hypocrisy.

Said to one who is pretentious, and one who feigns to be what he is not.

# **“Emwaweta nta alaki ifele.”**

<i>Anal.</i> —Emwaweta ..	A smiling, etc.
nta .....	not.
alaki .....	looked.
ifele .....	pit or trap for catching animals.

*Equiv*—Not all who appear to be satisfied are happy. Not all who seem to be in possession of wealth are really possessors.

# **“To loma oki jelo.”**

<i>Anal.</i> —To .....	We.
loma .....	rest.
oki .....	at, on.
jelo .....	sand bank.

Night comes on, and we rest thinking that we have reached land. But during the night a storm bursts upon us, and then we discover that we are on a sand-bank.

*Equiv.*—Resting in a false hope.

# **“Ba ko liela w’ena, o tungama : bosa wai ?”**

*Anal.*—Ba ..... They.  
           ko ..... you.  
           liela ..... shew, cause to appear, etc.  
           we ..... you  
           (l)ena ..... to see.  
           o ..... you.  
           tungama .... to be bound.  
           bosa ..... groaning, sighing, etc.  
           wai ..... why ?

They warned him, and now he is bound his groaning is in vain.

*Equiv.*—Sudden calamity overtakes the heedless, and then their groaning and weeping will be in vain.

# **“Wamb’ene o ya yeka to öfela ke botöma.”**

*Anal.*—Wambo .... Continue to, etc.  
           (l)ena ..... see.  
           ya ..... come ?  
           yeka ..... eat, be full ?  
           to ..... } forget not.  
           öfela-ke .. }  
           botöma .... mastication of food with a dry-  
   ness of mouth, from eating  
   manioc only.

*Equiv.*—Now is the day of plenty, but remember the days of poverty are coming.

Said to the extravagant and selfish.

# **“Yumba e coaki e lenya, lokuso lo sila.”**

*Anal.*—

Yumba .....	Thing (a).
e .....	it.
coaki.....	lost, disappeared.
e' .....	it.
lenya .....	seen, appears.
lokuso .....	seeking, search.
lo .....	it.
sila .....	finished, ended.

There is no need to seek further for a thing which was lost after it is found.

*Equiv.*—Satisfaction, Free from care and anxiety.

# **“Bontu nta waka a lifelo ja nyango au waka ek 'antu!”**

*Anal.*—

Bontu .....	Man, person.
nta .....	not.
waka.....	to die.
a .....	he.
la'ifelo .....	(on) the knee (with).
ja .....	of.
nyango.....	mother.
au .....	he,
waka.....	dies (dieth).
eka .....	at.
bantu .....	people (indefinite).

*A Simile.* —

*Equiv.*—Safety, security, confidence, etc.

# **“ O kenza liswa o kudza bonkumo lai? ”**

<i>Anal.</i> — O	.....	You.
kenza	.....	give away, bestow, etc.
liswa	.....	axe (an).
o	.....	you.
kudza	.....	listen (for), attend to.
bonkumo	....	report, sound, or echo of chopping.
lai	.....	why?

*Equiv.*—A reproof to those who regret having given a present.

# **“ Bolika au yaki la mpö! ”**

<i>Anal.</i> — Bolika	.....	A stone of the palm nut
au	.....	he, it.
yaki	.....	came.
la	.....	by, with.
mpö	.....	rat.

The palm nut stones are collected and brought together by rats.

*Equiv.*—Contempt for a stranger or visitor whom they consider has come for what he can get.

# **“ O kund' 'ona nyang 'oka nkele.”**

<i>Anal.</i> —O	.....	You.
kunda	.....	strike, hit, etc.
bona	.....	child.
nyango	.....	mother (the).
loka	.....	feel.
nkele	.....	anger, rage.

*Equiv.*—Parental love. Sympathy

# **“Sake ntianaka!”**

*Anal.*—Sake ..... A sudden surprise.

nta ..... not.

(l) ianaka.... known.

*Equiv.*—There is no warning before a surprise to prepare us for it.

A *reason* why we should be prepared for a surprise: because it gives no previous notice of its coming!

# **“Mbula nko isangia nk'alondo.”**

*Lit.*—A sudden shower of rain, without warning.

# **“Nta coaka mpau la wango oka webi.”**

*Anal.*—Nta ..... Not.

coaka ..... go to.

mpau ..... hunt (the).

la ..... with, by.

wango ..... suggestion, proposal

oka ..... of.

webi ..... friend (equal).

*Equiv.*—Independence.

# **“Ta mpo ta! leka mpo leke! o kela we na?”**

*Anal.*—Ta ..... Enter a net to be caught.

mpo ..... not.

ta ..... enter a net.

leka ..... pass—escape.

mpo ..... not.

leke ..... pass.

o ..... you.

kela ..... do.

we ..... you.

na ..... what?

You will not jump into the net, and you will not pass or escape; then what will you do?

*Equiv.*—One who doesn't know his own mind. Indecision. (A. E. R.) & (W. J. S)

# **“To yake la mbile! to yake la lotso! nje ekek’ e ya?”**

*Anal.*—To yake . . . . Come not.  
 la .. . . . by (with).  
 mbile . . . . . day.  
 to yake . . . . . come not.  
 la . . . . . by (with).  
 lotso . . . . . night  
 n . . . . . I.  
 je=ya . . . . . come.  
 ekeke . . . . . season, time.  
 eya . . . . . which, of what?

A rebuke to the churly.

# **“Bokakadza wa mpoinyi jeva jo kia.”**

*Anal* —Bokakadza .. Thought, etc.  
 wa . . . . . of  
 mpoinyi . . . . a lazy person  
 jeva . . . . . Sun.  
 jo . . . . . it.  
 kia . . . . . risen.

*Equiv.*—Prov. xxii. 13.

A vain excuse of the slothful.

# **“Nsusu nta ekaka betond’ efi.”**

*Anal.*—Nsusu . . . . . Fowl (cock).  
 nta . . . . . not.  
 ekaka . . . . . crows.  
 betonda . . . . perches  
 befi . . . . . two.

*Equiv.*—A man is master of his own house, not of others.

A reproof.

**“ Mbus’ otsa lako loela bafeka nko lolingo.”**

*Anal.*—Mbusa ..... Back of head.  
 botsa ..... head.  
 lako ..... no, not.  
 loela ..... a calling.  
 bafeka ..... behind.  
 nko ..... no, not.  
 lolingo ..... noise of footsteps of those who  
 are following after, etc.

*Equiv.*—“ Out of sight, out of mind.” Absent and not missed.

**“ Ngola y’afeka nt’o ’ise.”**

*Anal.*—Ngola ..... Camwood, with which they paint  
 their bodies.  
 ya ..... of.  
 bafeka ..... behind, back.  
 nta ..... not.  
 o ..... you.  
 bisa ..... to rub.

*A Simile* of the secrecy of backbiters.

**“ Lolango l’ona im’ ele nyango.”**

*Anal.*—Lolango .... Love.  
 la ..... of.  
 bona ..... child.  
 ima ..... from.  
 ele ..... of.  
 nyango ..... mother.

*Equiv.*—The source of (human) love is of the mother.

# **“ Ise a ko langa nkiki nyango ! ”**

*Anal.*—Ise ..... Father.  
           a ..... he.  
           ko ..... you.  
           langa ..... loves.  
           nkiki ..... was, was=at.  
           nyango ..... mother.

The father loves the child only while the mother remains with him.

# **“ Bofaiya likoji eoto a l'ako.”**

*Anal.*—Bofaiya ..... Stranger.  
           likoji ..... contradict, argue.  
           eota ..... relative, friend.  
           a ..... he.  
           le ..... is.  
           ako ..... there.

*A Simile* of suspicions aroused.

# **“ Cu mbile o lisa lisa to fo swela           yumba : o n seya elökö na ? ”**

*A rebuke* to those who are always seeking a quarrel, and are ever causing strife, etc.

# **“ Bofambe nto koke fala ise kela           to la.”**

*Anal.*—Bofambe .... Food.  
           nto ..... not.  
           koke ..... sufficient, complete.  
           fala ..... wait.  
           ise ..... father.  
           kela ..... then.  
           to ..... we.  
           la ..... eat.

*Equiv.*—Hope, expectation, patience, etc.

**“Boloja bololo we l’ana ba la,  
o to n ko nci meka, nci boka  
a jembo.”**

*Lit.* : You eat manioc and say it is bitter, but why not give me some and let me try it ; if bad I can throw it upon the rubbish heap.

*Equiv.*—Give me a chance !

(Baenga.)

**“Botema bo coa ndajiko la nsoi.”**

*Anal.*—Botema . . . . . Seat of the affections (inner man).  
bo . . . . . it  
coa . . . . . go (goeth).  
ndajiko . . . . up (above).  
la . . . . . with.  
nsoi . . . . . shame.

*Equiv.*—To have shame.

**“Bolök’ otali ngole bomoto la  
mpoke.”**

*Anal.*—Bolöko . . . . . A chattering, jabber, idle talk.  
botali . . . . . long, lengthy.  
ngole . . . . . like.  
bomoto . . . . . woman.  
la . . . . . and.  
mpoke . . . . . pot.

His incessant chatter and idle talk are like a woman attending to a boiling pot.

*Equiv.*—The chatter and idle talk of a chatterbox is incessant.

**“Ifoso y’omoto, nongola, nongola.”**

*Lit.*—The chatter of a woman is incessant.



**“Nta kundaka ngambe l’anoju  
likila limoko; nyango lö-  
foso.”**

*Anal.*—Nta ..... Not.  
kundaka . . . bury.  
ngambe .... elder (an).  
bonoju ..... child (boy).  
likila ..... grave-yard.  
limoko ..... one.  
nyango ..... on account of.  
löfoso ..... talk, chatter, jabber, noise, voice,  
etc., etc.

*A Simile of*—An old man’s contempt for children. He does not wish to be buried in the same grave-yard as they.

**“Ngambe jumbu jino jilongo.”**

*Simile of*—Selfishness. To be miserly.

**“Njöko njöko e ta ka bonoju  
lokasa ombele.”**

*Anal.*—Njöko..... } A miser, selfish person ?  
njöko ..... }  
e ..... he.  
tafo ..... not.  
ka ..... give.  
bonoju ..... boy (child).  
lokala ..... leaf.  
ombele ..... to lick.

*Equiv.*—Selfishness, miserly.

# **“Ise ya webi ngua we wo komba a komb’ on’okai.”**

*Anal.*—Ise ..... Father.  
           ya ..... of.  
           webi ..... friend (equal)  
           ngua ..... shield:  
           we ..... you.  
           we, o ..... you.  
           komba ..... cover, shield.  
           a ..... he.  
           komba ..... covers, shields.  
           (b)ona ..... child.  
           (b)okai ..... his.

*A Simile. Equiv.*—Ingratitude.

# **“Botai wa webi o fid ’okulu.”**

*Anal.*—Botai ..... net (a).  
           wa ..... of.  
           webi ..... friend (equal).  
           o ..... you.  
           fidi ..... have.  
           bokulu ..... string.

A man borrows a net, but before returning it to the owner he repairs it with his own string.

A short time after, the owner goes to the hunt with this net and catches an animal, but refuses to give any of the meat to the man who repaired it.

*A Simile of*—Ingratitude.

# **“Okami a fa bokere nk’onembe bo le bakole.”**

*Equiv.*—Before you can act you must know how to act.

**“Yöko botöma elunge tominyo.”**

*Anal.*—Yōko . . . . . Manioc, cassava.  
 botōma . . . . . toma, to chew with a dryness of  
 mouth (from eating manioc  
 only).  
 elunge . . . . . face.  
 tominyo . . . . a distortion of the face.

*Equiv.*—Dissatisfaction. Discontentment.

**“O kanda wiji wa jina.”**

*Anal.*—O ..... you.  
kanda ..... take hold of, bind, seize, arrest,  
                                etc.  
wiji ..... place.  
wa ..... of.  
iina ..... footprint.

*Equiv.*—Track a thief by his footprints.

**“lvaka locide nyama lofoso n kela mö?”**

*Anal.*—Ivaka ..... Knife (a).  
 la ..... with.  
 bocide ..... bluntness.  
 nyama ..... meat.  
 lofoso ..... skin, etc.  
 n ..... I.  
 kela ..... do.  
 mō ..... what ?

*Equiv.*.—Inability to help.

**“Basi bokwa ekila nk’ on ’oki  
webi.”**

*Anal.*—Basi ..... Water.  
           bokwa ..... salt.  
           ekila ..... abstinency.  
           nko ..... only.  
           bona. .... child.  
           oki..... of.  
           webi ..... friend (equal).

*Equiv.*—Favouritism

**“Toti ta nyama tofi nso watsa  
nso watsa o n dasa we la  
w’atol’ imo?”**

*Anal.*—Toti ..... Small particles.  
           ta.. ..... of.  
           nyama ..... meat.  
           tofi ..... two.  
           nso ..... I.  
           wa ..... die.  
           tsa..... fire.  
           o ..... you.  
           n ..... me.  
           (d)asa ..... seek.  
           we ..... you  
           la ..... and.  
           we ..... you.  
           atola ..... cut off, divide.  
           imo ..... more.

*Equiv.*—An insinuation against selfishness in dividing meat.

bofumba .... a sop.  
 njela ..... a fishing?  
 eka ..... at.  
 nyango..... mother.

*Equiv.*—Confidence.

**“ Nto coa lankesa botatana lökolo  
o cumola ba y’ase ! ”**

*Anal.*—nta..... Not.  
o ..... you.  
coa ..... go (goeth).  
lankesa..... early morning.  
botatana .... exhaustion, a feeling of weakness,  
a result of hunger, etc.  
lökolo ..... evening.  
o ..... you.  
cumola ..... annoy, trouble, etc.  
ba ..... they.  
yo ..... = to  
asa ..... seek.

**A rebuke to the indolent and undeserving beggars.**

## “Jisu nta ko enela.”

*Anal.*—Jisu ..... Eye.  
           nta ..... not.  
           ko ..... you.  
           enela..... manifest, reveal to.

It was done behind one's back, and therefore the eye could not reveal it to one.

## “A le bosikota ng'okwa.”

*Anal.*—A ..... He.  
           le ..... is.  
           bosikota .... a young man.  
           nga ..... like.  
           bokwa ..... salt.

*A Simile.*—A good young man (in disposition).

## “A le bosikota nga mboiyo!”

*Anal.*—A ..... He.  
           le ..... is.  
           bosikota .... a young man.  
           nga ..... like.  
           mboiyo..... A straight tree.

*A Simile.*—A fine young fellow (physique).

## “Bowa nta sambaka mbula!”

*Anal.*—Bowa ..... Dry season.  
           nta ..... not.  
           sambaka .... lacketh, in need of, etc.  
           mbula ..... rain.

The dry season is not without some rain!

There is some rain even during the dry season.

## “Mpela nta sambaka biane.”

*Anal.* —Mpela . . . . Wet season.  
           nta . . . . . not.  
           sambaka . . . . lacketh, in need of, etc.  
           biane . . . . . heat, sunshine.

The wet season is not without its sunshine.

There is some sunshine even during the wet season.

## “Bamato nta sambaka löfoso.”

Women are not in need of words.

*Lit.* — They are fluent.

## “O fonga bokumba ekaka.”

Finish the palaver, cause it to be settled. Come to a decision.

## “Bots’ ak’efikere, efikere nk’otso k’ontu!”

A night alarm or ruse to arouse the inhabitants, to warn them of a burglar’s approach.

## “O bok’ elunge nda ngunda lai?”

*Anal.* — O . . . . . You.  
           boka . . . . . throw.  
           elunge . . . . . face.  
           nda . . . . . in (into).  
           ngunda . . . . . forest.  
           lai . . . . . why?

*Equiv.* — Why do you despise me? Why treat me with scorn and disdain?

Said to an acquaintance who turns his head away from you while passing.

# **“Namba bau ya nd’ isika, bau yo cika boje!”**

*Anal.*—Namba ..... Elephants.  
 bau ..... they.  
 ya ..... come.  
 nda ..... in (into).  
 isika ..... street or open space of the town  
 bau ..... they.  
 yo ..... to.  
 cika ..... leave.  
 boje ..... spring, or short wet season

*A sign of spring-time coming.*

# **“Nyama yo liela etumba yo ya.”**

*Anal.*—Nyama ..... Animals.  
 yo ..... — they (to).  
 liela ..... come out of the forest into the town.  
 etumba ..... fight, army, etc.  
 yo ..... — it (to).  
 ya ..... comes.

*A sign of something grave or of a serious nature going to happen.*

# **“Nso kola ntukunyo bosuka lilo.”**

*Anal.*—Nso ..... I.  
 kola ..... take.  
 ntukunyo .... a kind of mushroom.  
 bosuka ..... one who causes to stop, or prevents, etc.  
 lilo ..... hunger (want of meat).

Not having any meat. I take the mushroom, which is serviceable for stopping the cravings of hunger.

*A Simile.*—If you cannot accomplish your object, do the next best thing, etc., etc.



## **“To ond’ ekute jina ji kela nk’asi.”**

*Anal.*—To ..... We.

onda	.....	track, trace, etc.
ekute	.....	footprint of yesterday?
jina	.....	footprint (fresh).
ji	.....	it.
kela	.....	do, etc., etc,
nko	.....	only.
basi	.....	water (fresh).

While they are tracing the footprints of an animal which passed yesterday, they suddenly come across footprints fresh of this day's.

*Equiv.*—A sudden surprise. An unexpected event.

## **“To ond’ esende bongolo bo liteko bwö.”**

*Anal.*—To ..... We.

onda	.....	track, trace, etc.
esende	.....	squirrel.
bongolo	....	porcupine (a kind of).
bo	.....	it.
le	.....	is.
iteko	.....	net.
bwö	.....	sudden (without warning).

While they were hunting for a squirrel a porcupine suddenly darted into the net.

*Equiv.*—An unexpected event. A surprise.

## **“Boseka boki bombölö la nkoi.”**

*Anal.*—Boseka ..... One who causes laughter.

boki	.....	which.
bombölö	....	a small animal.
la	.....	and.
nkoi	.....	leopard (a).

*The fable is:*—Said the “bombölö” to the “nkoi”—when you hear my cry you come; for then I shall be on the ground. Now when the “nkoi” heard the cry of the “bombölö” he went to the place from whence the cry came—but, lo! he found the “bombölö” was far away, at the top of the highest tree.

*Equiv.*—A hoax.

## “Mpō a ko la a ko fefa.”

*Lit.*—Rats before they nibble you blow upon the flesh in order to deaden the feeling.

## “Bomwe isika etumba l'ekulo.”

*Anal.*—Bomwe . . . . . An aggrieved person!  
           isika . . . . . the street, or open space of the  
   town, etc.  
           etumba . . . . . fight=army.  
           le . . . . . is.  
           ekulo . . . . . outskirts of the town.

*Equiv.*—Be watchful, and on your guard. Be cautious, etc.

## “Lifaiya l'iko l'otomba.”

*Anal.*—Lifaiya . . . . . Stranger, visitor (or the visit ?)  
           la . . . . . and.  
           iko . . . . . porcupine.  
           la . . . . . and.  
           botomba . . . . animal (an).

The “botomba,” which is sitting just outside of its own den, keeps the “iko” back. They gossip, but in the meantime a trap is set by a hunter, and the “iko” in trying to return to its distant home is caught in the trap.

A warning to simpletons and those unsuspecting danger. (Prov. 14, 15.)



**“Ba ki 'amato bau coa baende.”**

See No 3.

**“Inkuni au sana nda lisafa; a  
sanela nyango l'ise.”**

*Anal.*—Inkuni ..... Child, infant.  
au ..... he.  
sana ..... plays.  
nda ..... in.  
lisafa ..... a puddle.  
a ..... he.  
sanela ..... plays for or to.  
nyango ..... mother.  
la ..... and.  
ise ..... father.

If the child is allowed to play in the puddle of dirty water he will cover his parents with dirt when nursed by one of them.

*A Simile of.*—The child which is never corrected will bring trouble upon its parents.

**“Nganza e om'iyloambi wa'nde  
yo om'iylokekele.”**

*Anal.*—Nganza ..... A stick.  
e ..... it.  
(b)oma ..... kill.  
iylo ..... they.  
loambi ..... lizard (a large species).  
wai ..... [it is] equal to.  
ende ..... it, he, etc.  
yo ..... to.  
(b)oma ..... kill.  
iylo ..... they.  
lokekele ..... a small animal.

*A Simile. Equiv.*—Impartiality.

# **“Lokaya n ka nko o n ka emi!”**

Cause to be giving. I give no (one) who (to) me gives me.

*Lit.*— I continue to give, but no one gives to me.

# **“Em’ on o simbe.”**

I am passing, or I am going.

# **“Nso coa o lembe nkongia lita.”**

*Anal.*—Nso ..... I.  
           coa ..... go.  
           o or lo ..... to.  
           lembe ..... tie.  
           ngongia ‘ .. } eyelashes.  
           ‘lita ..... }

*Equiv.*—I am going to bed,

**“Nsau y’anoju ”** { **Kwa te! kwa te!**  
                                   **to kudza baise**  
                                   **bau coa ecumba**  
                                   **nda likoji, bo-**  
                                   **kumbi bo f’ ut’**  
                                   **ola ”**

*Equiv.*—

Lullaby { Listen! listen! We hear (caus.) fathers  
                                   they go to (the) fight in argument (etc.)  
                                   (the) warrior (chief) he returns not to  
                                   town (lit he escapes not).

**“Nso w’aisilo mo.”**

I am sleepy!

**“Lo lotso!”**

Good night!



**LONDON :**  
**TRUSLOVE AND BRAY, PRINTERS, KNIGHT'S HILL ROAD**  
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